

REMARKS

The Amendment:

Claim 1 has been amended in response to the examiner's comments in the last Office action to the effect that the expression "all said successive coats" renders the "consisting essentially of" phrase indefinite and meaningless. That expression is changed with this amendment to a recitation of the specific coats,

Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitation that the backing coat included by this claim is also stable and resistant to decomposition at the molding temperature; the same as recited for the indicia and top coats in claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, page 7, lines 21-33.

Several new claims have been added. New claims 20 and 21 are duplicates of claims 18 and 19, but are dependent on claim 2, rather than claim 1. New claim 22 recites a preferred composition of the indicia coat which is disclosed at page 4, lines 10-12. New claim 23 recites a preferred wax for the indicia coat, which is disclosed in the Example and on page 4, line 33 to page 5, line 4. New claim 24 recites a preferred transparent wax, which is disclosed on page 4, lines 15-17.

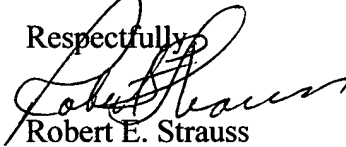
Applicant's Comments:

It is believed that this amendment should place the claims in condition for allowance. The latent ambiguity noted in claim 1 by the examiner has been eliminated by the amendment.

As stated in the last response, the claims exclude the use of any materials that would materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed method; *Ex parte Hoffman* (Bd. Pat. App. Int.) 12 USPQ 2d 1061, 1063-4. Thus, use of a polymer that does not melt at the molding temperature such as the thermosetting polymers disclosed by Makar et al are excluded. The use of a backing coat can be included by dependent claim 2 as that claim also recites that the waxes or polymers used in the backing coat have the characteristics necessary for the invention.

The claims are believed to be in proper form and, for the reasons set forth herein, define invention over the prior art. Reconsideration of the final rejection and allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner maintains the final rejection, it is requested that the amendment be entered for purposes of appeal as it obviates the issue that the claims are not commensurate with the arguments which applicants have previously advanced in this application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Strauss", is written over the typed name.

Robert E. Strauss

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